



Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

REPAIRCARE

New Certification Standard for MVAC Machines

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is updating their certification standard for motor vehicle air-conditioning (MVAC) service equipment. This new standard applies to all MVAC recovery/recycle and recovery/recycle/recharging equipment for HFC R – 134a refrigerant. All MVAC refrigerant service equipment manufactured or imported after December 31, 2007 must meet this new standard.

EPA is taking this action to avoid any confusion with their MVAC equipment certification standards. The old EPA MVAC certification standard required MVAC equipment to meet the SAE J2210 standard. This old SAE standard may have left as much as 30% of old refrigerant in a MVAC system. This could happen even when the J2210 certified equipment indicated a zero charge in the MVAC system. SAE has since updated the MVAC refrigerant equipment standard to the more stringent J2788 standard. This new SAE standard requires a recharge accuracy standard of 0.5 ounces coupled with a refrigerant recovery efficiency of 95%.

The new rule does not require the immediate replacement of any previously certified MVAC recovery/recycle and recovery/recycling/recharging equipment which a shop may own or lease. Any equipment manufactured or imported after December 31, 2007 must meet the new SAE J2788 standard.

The EPA is also changing the system for submitting MVAC equipment certification paperwork. Under the old system the paperwork would be sent to the EPA's Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and then transferred to the appropriate EPA regional offices. Under the new system the paperwork will be mailed directly to the regional office responsible for maintaining the paperwork. The new address for shops having their address in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia is:

CAA Section 609 Enforcement Contact
EPA Region III – Wheeling Operations Office
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11th and Chapline Streets
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